

Serial No. 09/349,211

REMARKS

The foregoing supplemental amendment is submitted pursuant to a telephone conversation between the undersigned counsel and Examiner DeBeradinis on July 29, 2003. The purpose of the amendment is to correct the claim language so that the characterizations of the respective first and second power lines are consistent.

In the load control module according to the invention, power is supplied to the vehicle load via a first electric power line which is connected to the vehicle mounted power supply via a first fuse. On the other hand, electric power for supplying the control circuitry of the vehicle is provided through a second power line, which is separate from the first power line, and is connected to the vehicle mounted power supply through a second fuse. As recited in Claim 10, the second electric power line is thinner than the relatively thicker first power line.

With such a bifurcation of the electric supply as between the two systems (that is, the load driving electric power supply line and the control circuit driving electric power supply line), even in the event of a failure or abnormality in the load drive electric power supply line (that is, the first power line), the control circuit maintains operation for controlling the vehicle power supply functions. Moreover, the total weight of the vehicle is reduced, by virtue of having provided a second, thinner, supply line for the control circuitry. These features of the invention are recited in Claim 10.

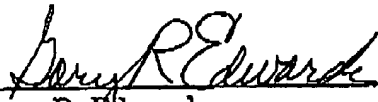
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By way of contrast, in the cited Matsumaru et al reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,673), electric power is supplied from the power source line 55 to both the control circuit (CPU portion 63) and the load (branch line 54). Thus, when the electric power source line 55 experiences an anomaly, electric power supply is interrupted to both the load (branch line 54) and the control circuitry (CPU portion 63).

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1823 (Docket #381NP/47981).

Respectfully submitted,


Gary R. Edwards
Registration No. 31,824

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
GRE:kms/56207